Damoria bridge in Jalandhar

3366. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that former Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone in 1997 for the construction of prestigious bridge known as Damoria bridge in Jalandhar (Punjab);

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned and released so far by Central Government;

(c) whether the construction of bridge has been delayed due to release of funds by the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken for immidiate release of funds to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Construction of Damoria Road Over Bridge (ROB) was sanctioned by the Ministry under Central Road Fund Scheme. The total cost of construction of ROB is Rs. 26.11 crore. Out of this, share of Railway is Rs. 5.33 crore and Ministry's share is Rs. 20.78 crore. The work is being executed by the Municipal Corporation Jalandhar. Funds are released for the works sanctioned under CRF to the State Governments depending upon the utilization certificate furnished by the States. Funds are not released under CRF for any individual work. However, the State Government of Punjab was requested to provide adequate funds to Municipal Corporation, Jalandhar for Damoria Bridge from the CRF release made to the State Government of Punjab.

Four and six-laning of NHs

3367. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four-laning of National Highways (NHs) Chandigarh-Kiratpur-Amritsar-Pathankot and Jalandhar, six-laning of Ludhiana-Chandigarh and four-laning of Ludhiana-Ferozepur highways have not been completed so far by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);

(b) if so, the reasons for slow progress of these projects; and

(c) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Four laning of Kurali-Kiratpur (Section of Chandigarh-Kiratpur NH-21) is targeted to be completed by June, 2010 and four laning of Dhilwan-Verka Chowk (Section of Amritsar-Jalandhar NH-1) is targeted to be completed by November, 2008. The length of Chandigarh-Kurali (section of Chandigarh-Kiratpur NH-21) is 28.6 km. Out of this, stretch from km 0.0 to km 11.4 is four/six laned. Four laning from km 11.4 to 15.4 has been sanctioned for Rs. 13.51 crore on 31.03.2008 by Ministry. Four laning of balance stretch of 14 km of Chandigarh-Kurali, Amristar-Pathankot, Jalandhar-Dhilwan (section of Amristar-Jalandhar NH-1) and Ludhiana-Talwandi (section of Ludhiana-Ferozepur NH-95) and six laning of Ludhiana-Chandigarh NH-95 have not been awarded. It is too early to indicate the target dates of

completion of these projects. Four laning of Talwandi-Ferozepur (section of Ludhiana-Ferozepur) has not been identified under NHDP.

Instruments to check theft of vehicles

†3368. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the specific instruments which have been made compulsory for installation by Government to check the day-to-day theft of the transport and non-transport vehicles;

(b) the existing provisions at present to cancel the licenses of drivers involved in the accidents and the proposals under consideration in this regard; and

(c) the proposals received from the State Government of Rajasthan to check the road accidents and also to stop the theft of vehicles and by when these proposals are likely to be implemented by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No specific anti-theft instrument has been made compulsory by the Government for fitment in motor vehicles.

(b) Under Section 19 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, a licensing authority may disqualify a person from holding a driving licence or revoke such license on a number of grounds such as the person being habitual criminal/drunkard/addict to any narcotic drugs or commission of any cognizable offence, dangerous driving etc. Under Section 22 of the Act, Court may also cancel the driving licence if the person is convicted of an offence relating to dangerous driving, causing death of, or grievous hurt to, any person. A court shall necessarily cancel the license on subsequent conviction for the offence relating to drunken driving.

(c) Government of Rajasthan had suggested that cases of acidents by a driver be entered in his driving licence record and such violations should attract penalty points. The driving licence be cancelled after the penalty points get accoumulated to a certain level. The Government of Rajasthan had also suggested for making mandatory provisions in the rules for installation of security gadgets (central locking, steering lock, fuel lock) in the motor vehicles.

The Government of Rajasthan has already been informed that issuance of driving licence in Smart Card mode includes provision for as many as ten endorsements on the driving licence along with other details. Section 19 of the Act also empowers the licensing authorities to disqualify a person from holding a driving licence or revoke such licence on a number of grounds. The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 do not debar fitment of security gadgets in the motor vehicle.

Proposal of disaster management support

3369. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO proposes to offer disaster management support in Asia-Pacific region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.